

# Making Good Choices: A teacher education workshop

---

**Grant Agreement # 11-005W**

**Grantee:** Champaign County Forest Preserve District  
P.O. Box 1040  
Mahomet, IL 61853  
(217) 586-3360

**Contact:** Mary Ellen Wuellner, Grants Coordinator  
mwuellner@ccfpd.org

**Term:** 11/24/10 – 12/31/11

**Program Description:**

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District conducted a two-day teacher education workshop on June 9-10, 2011. The workshop, entitled "Making Good Choices", provided lessons and teaching methods that educators can use to help students develop critical thinking skills through investigation of the local environment and history of human land use and settlement. The format for the two-day workshop included guest lectures, hands-on activities, and field work with lesson plans that correlate to state learning standards and common core subjects.

Teachers learned how to incorporate environmental and cultural education into a variety of disciplines including language arts, fine arts, history, and science. In the workshop, educators also learned how to use the natural environment as a field classroom and guide students using lesson plans that have been adapted to the grade level and academic discipline they teach. One session in particular addressed the needs of students with physical and/or developmental disabilities.

Elementary, secondary, and homeschool teachers from throughout east central Illinois were invited to attend. Because the workshop format includes fieldwork and several hands-on activities, the group was limited to 17 educators. We have found that limiting the group size leads to a greater educational experience for the participants. However, the reach of this program is much broader than the 17 teachers who attended. Several hundred students will benefit annually from the knowledge and resources that the educators received during their two-day training.

The project completion date coincided with the end of the fall semester for most educators who participated in the workshop, so that the district could begin to get a sense of whether our educational objectives were achieved. The educational outcomes are reported below.

**Educational Objectives and Outcomes:**

The primary goal of the workshop was to develop environmental literacy in students, by providing education and resources to teachers that they in turn can relay to their classes. Other expected outcomes included:

- Help students develop critical thinking skills as they make connections between these environmental education lessons and their other academic curricula

## Making Good Choices: A teacher education workshop

---

- Provide the environmental education that most teachers lack, so that they can pass the knowledge along to their students
- Demonstrate the importance of environmental stewardship and how an appreciation for the environment relies on a knowledge of history and natural sciences
- Enrich the students' understanding of and appreciation for their local landscape and how it has been shaped by environmental and human factors over the course of time
- Show teachers how to use the natural environment as a field classroom by demonstrating activities they can use with their students
- Provide teachers with a variety of environmental education approaches and activities that they can easily adapt to their own specific grade levels, disciplines, and students' abilities
- Provide each teacher with a resource kit with lesson plans, field guides and activities, historical documents, posters, publications, and data collection tools for use in their classrooms

The teachers that participated in the workshop were asked to complete a post-workshop questionnaire to determine if the class objectives were met and to learn how they intend to use the information and materials they received. The evaluation revealed that 100% of participants rated the workshop "good" or better. 100% of participants indicated that they would use the information and resources that they received at the workshop with their classes this fall or spring semester. 100% indicated that the course increased their knowledge of area history and the local natural environment. 94% said they would definitely feel more comfortable using the outdoors as a field classroom.

A survey of workshop participants after the close of the fall semester revealed that 75% had actually had the opportunity to share with their students at least some of the information they had learned. This quote was indicative of the responses: "I have used the Champaign County book so far, some information from the prairie flowers book as well, and planned a field trip to the Urbana Free Library archives to learn more about the history of Urbana through primary documents and maps. That was all encouraged through the program. I also plan to bring my students to the Museum in the spring when we are studying plants so that we can get up close to a prairie and older trees in our area."

A follow-up evaluation will be sent to educators one year from the workshop date to see if a greater percentage has used the information and resources, and get an understanding how that information was received by students.

### **Additional Quotes from Participating Educators:**

- I enjoyed going out to the prairie and talking about the prairie plants.
- I loved the accommodations and the modifications sessions (session on working with special needs students) because it works with all students!
- I also loved all the outdoor adventures.
- Good ideas on teaching about the prairie.
- Good storytelling segment.

## Making Good Choices: A teacher education workshop

---

- I enjoyed the laid back/open style workshop environment.
- Beautiful venue for event.
- All of the presenters were experts in their field(s). Thank you for bringing such great presenters to the sessions. We learned so much!
- All sessions were extremely helpful, engaging and educating.
- Loved the story telling!
- Fun activities and a great way to get science/social studies into reading.
- Disabilities session was very good too- a real “eye opener”.
- I particularly enjoyed the activities that demonstrated how people on the prairie used and reused items in their environment.
- I also enjoyed the activities for students with disabilities. I have a better understanding of what these students are experiencing.
- Storytelling- I could really see how to incorporate that into my lessons in social topics.
- Scavenger hunt- great idea to get kids to pay attention.
- Outside walk artifact identification was the most enjoyable part for me.
- I have to say it was the best workshop I have ever been to. It was well organized and well thought out. I loved the atmosphere and the chance to get outside. All of the presenters were excellent and I really enjoyed the small setting. I will definitely attend again if you have another seminar.
- I LOVE the use of the leaf identification and the bark samples. I use them constantly with my grandkids who are 7 and 4. I plan to make arrangements to take my class to Lake of the Woods to do seed and leaf identification. Loved the class!
- Unfortunately, I am not in a classroom this year of my own; I am only volunteering to teach reading. However, I plan on using what I learned when I do get a class next year. Personally, I have kept my tree and wildflower ID books close at hand and have learned a great deal. I also spent the fall keeping a little log of the trees I saw on my way around town, and found time to sketch when I could.
- I really enjoyed the workshop. Thanks again for holding it.

### Results for the District:

Upon completion of the workshop and review of the 6-month post-workshop survey responses, the effort was deemed a great success. A few minor concerns were noted about the length of some sessions (some may have been slightly too long), and the amount of walking that participants were asked to do (a few felt it was too much). Generally, however, the responses were overwhelmingly positive. A few unanticipated positive results were also realized:

- While in the midst of the planning process, the workshop planning team created a set of guidelines that can be used to guide the process for future workshops. This template can now be followed when planning future educational programs, thus allowing the education staff more time to focus on lesson planning and spend less time on the logistical details of the program.

## Making Good Choices: A teacher education workshop

---

- Our education staff made great connections with the local natural resource and educational experts that agreed to be workshop presenters. These connections will continue to serve our district staff well in the future. This networking opportunity was invaluable!
- The educators that participated in the workshop now represent a good core group of advocates for our educational programs and the district in general. Many had very limited knowledge of our services, facilities, and preserves. All of the participants came away with very high regard for the work we do and the value we bring to the community.

### Summary:

Making Good Choices will definitely be a recurring program within the district's teacher education curriculum. Because of the other workshops on the schedule however, this particular conference will not be held again until 2013 or 2014.

The district's education department has plans in place to hold several additional workshops for educators from Champaign and surrounding counties. Programs in the works include Project Learning Tree (using the forest as a "window" on the world to increase students' understanding of our environment, this program encourages students to make informed decisions on environmental issues and instills in them the commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment), Project WET (a national water education program for teachers), and Flying WILD (a program of the Council for Environmental Education that introduces students to bird conservation through standards-based classroom activities and environmental stewardship projects). The participants from Making Good Choices will receive personal invitations to these upcoming workshops.

### Published Advertisement Recognizing Granting Agencies:



**Free Educator Workshop!**  
Making Good Choices: Cross-Curricular Teaching of History & the Environment in Champaign County

**June 9 & 10 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Museum of the Grand Prairie**  
(formerly Early American Museum)  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet

Help your students develop critical thinking skills in a variety of disciplines. Activity extensions are included to address students with special needs. Activities are geared toward grades 3-8. CPDUs: 11.5.

Made possible in part by the IL Dept. of Natural Resources from contributions to the IL Wildlife Preservation Fund, an EcoStar Grant from the Constellation Energy Group Foundation, the Lumpkin Family Foundation, and Busey Bank.

**Registration deadline: May 18th**  
(217) 896-2455 or sclémentz@ccfpd.org

**FOREST PRESERVES**  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Published in the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette, May 7-8, 2011

# Making Good Choices: A teacher education workshop

*Making Good Choices: Teacher Education Workshop  
Champaign County Forest Preserve District*

## Program Budget

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>
Env. Education Program Specialist	\$2,400.00	
Historical Educator	\$1,082.00	
Museum Historical Curator	\$582.00	
Garden Specialist/Naturalist	\$612.00	
Coordinator of EE and Interpretation	\$110.00	
Summer Seasonals (2)	\$127.50	
	<b>\$4,913.50</b>	<b>CCFPD</b>

<b>Other</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>
Building Rental	\$150.00	
Photocopying (binders, handouts, letters)	\$200.00	
Transportation on site during workshop	\$250.00	
Communication (postage/phone)	\$300.00	
	<b>\$900.00</b>	<b>CCFPD, Lumpkin</b>

<b>Supplies/Materials</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>
Conference Supplies	\$301.72	
Snacks/Misc.	\$126.29	
Educator Resource Kits	\$2,530.55	
	<b>\$2,958.56</b>	<b>EcoStar, Lumpkin</b>

<b>Contractual</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>
Instructors/Workshop Presenters	\$2,000.00	DNR

<b>Program Total</b>	<b>\$10,772.06</b>	
----------------------	--------------------	--

## Revenue

	<b>Amounts</b>
Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD)	\$5,772.06
IL Dept. Natural Resources/Wildlife Preservation Fund (DNR)	\$2,000.00
Constellation Energy - Eco Star	\$1,000.00
Lumpkin Family Foundation	\$2,000.00
	<b>\$10,772.06</b>



# Making Good Choices: A teacher education workshop

Photos from Workshop:







**Invoice**

**Presentation:** Making Good Choices Workshop- The Art of Storytelling

**Presenter:** Elaine Bearden

**Date of presentation:** June 10, 2011

**Amount:** \$500

**Make check out to:** Elaine Bearden

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey Clementz, Education Program Specialist

5/26/11  
Date




Check Image

Item Reference: 95162

Amount: \$500.00

FRONT

THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED ON CHEMICAL REACTIVE PAPER WHICH CONTAINS A WATERMARK, ULTRAVIOLET FIBERS AND MICROPRINTING.

 <p><b>FOREST PRESERVES</b> CHAMPAIGN COUNTY</p>	<p><b>CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT</b> P.O. BOX #1040 MAHOMET, ILLINOIS 61853 PH. (217) 586-2511</p>	<p><b>BuseyBANK</b> www.busey.com 70-258711</p>	<p><b>095162</b> 95162</p>
---	---	---	--------------------------------

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS \*\*\*\*\*

<p>PAY TO THE ORDER OF</p> <p><b>ELAINE BEARDEN</b></p>	<p>DATE <b>06/03/11</b></p> <p>AMOUNT <b>\$500.00</b></p>
---	---


WHICH IS NOT CASHED WITHIN 90 DAYS

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

318

⑈095162⑈ ⑆071102568⑆ 00191254⑈

BACK



ENDORSE HERE

DO NOT WRITE STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE  
NEE STAMP FOR REMISSAL AND CASHION USE

318

John W. Baker

print    close





Champaign County Forest Preserve District  
Museum and Education Department  
Homer Lake Interpretive Center  
2573 S. Homer Lake Road Homer, Illinois 61849  
217.896.2455 [sclementz@ccfpd.org](mailto:sclementz@ccfpd.org)

---

## Invoice

**Presentation:** Making Good Choices Workshop- Tracking Down Resources

**Presenter:** Kristin Camp

**Date of presentation:** June 9, 2011

**Amount:** \$125

**Make check out to:** Kristin Camp

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey Clementz, Education Program Specialist

5/26/11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date


Check Image

Item Reference: 95164

Amount: \$125.00

FRONT

THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED ON CHEMICAL REACTIVE PAPER WHICH CONTAINS A WATERMARK, ULTRAVIOLET FIBERS AND MICROPRINTING.

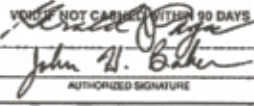
 <p><b>FOREST PRESERVES</b> CHAMPAIGN COUNTY</p>	<p><b>CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT</b> P.O. BOX #1040 MAHOMET, ILLINOIS 61853 PH. (217) 586-2511</p>	<p><b>BuseyBANK</b> www.busey.com 70-258/711</p>	<p><b>095164</b> 95164</p>
---	---	--	--------------------------------

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS \*\*\*\*\*

	DATE	AMOUNT
	06/03/11	\$125.00

PAY TO THE ORDER OF KRISTIN CAMP

VOID IF NOT CASHED WITHIN 90 DAYS

  
 AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

\*095164# 0071102568# 00191254#

BACK

THIS CHECK IS PRINTED ON CHEMICAL REACTIVE PAPER WHICH CONTAINS A WATERMARK, ULTRAVIOLET FIBERS AND MICROPRINTING.

FOR INFORMATION: THIS CHECK IS PRINTED ON CHEMICAL REACTIVE PAPER WHICH CONTAINS A WATERMARK, ULTRAVIOLET FIBERS AND MICROPRINTING.


FOR INFORMATION: THIS CHECK IS PRINTED ON CHEMICAL REACTIVE PAPER WHICH CONTAINS A WATERMARK, ULTRAVIOLET FIBERS AND MICROPRINTING.

825432769 85132811 >271182524< Education, Parks

DO NOT WRITE, STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE.

REC. JUNE 14, 2011 AM 11:18:11

ENDORSE HERE

X 





**Invoice**

**Presentation:** Making Good Choices Workshop- Working with Special Need Students

**Presenter:** Pam Duda

**Date of presentation:** June 10, 2011

**Amount:** \$250

**Make check out to:** Pam Duda

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey Clementz, Education Program Specialist

5/26/11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date


Check Image

Item Reference: 95167

Amount: \$250.00

FRONT


THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED ON CHEMICAL REACTIVE PAPER WHICH CONTAINS A WATERMARK, ULTRAVIOLET FIBERS AND MICROPRINTING.

 <p><b>FOREST PRESERVES</b> CHAMPAIGN COUNTY</p>	<p><b>CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT</b> P.O. BOX #1040 MAHOMET, ILLINOIS 61853 PH. (217) 566-2511</p>	<p><b>BUSEYBANK™</b> www.busey.com 70-299711</p>	<p><b>095167</b> 95167</p>
---	---	--	--------------------------------

TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS \*\*\*\*\*

<p>PAY TO THE ORDER OF <b>PAM DUDA</b></p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">DATE</td> <td style="text-align: center;">AMOUNT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">06/03/11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$250.00</td> </tr> </table>	DATE	AMOUNT	06/03/11	\$250.00
DATE	AMOUNT				
06/03/11	\$250.00				

VOID IF NOT CASHED WITHIN 90 DAYS

  
 AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑈095167⑈ ⑆071102568⑆ 00191254⑈

BACK

The amount of this check is guaranteed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. This check is subject to the terms and conditions of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's check guarantee program. For more information, please visit www.frb.org/checkguarantee.

06/14/2011 4:49 PM  
3rd 20 Tr# 2001 Seq#  
0  
port103629  
\*Processed Next Business Day

First Mid Illinois Bank  
BOPD >071102076<  
Mahomet  
1110882003 2011-06-15

ENDORSE HERE

DO NOT WRITE STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE  
RESERVED FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

*Pam Duda*  
#11410





**Invoice**

**Presentation:** Making Good Choices Workshop- Adventures in the Prairie

**Presenter:** Jamie Ellis

**Date of presentation:** June 10, 2011

**Amount:** \$625

**Make check out to:** University of Illinois

**In memo please write:** Gift

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey Clementz, Education Program Specialist

5/26/11

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date


Check Image

Item Reference: 95170

Amount: \$625.00

FRONT

THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED ON CHEMICAL REACTIVE PAPER WHICH CONTAINS A WATERMARK, ULTRAVIOLET FIBERS AND MICROPRINTING.

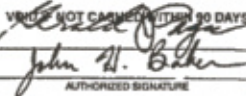
 <b>FOREST PRESERVES</b> <small>CHAMPAIGN COUNTY</small>	<b>CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT</b> P.O. BOX #1040 MAHOMET, ILLINOIS 61853 PH. (217) 586-2511	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">835</div>	<b>BuseyBANK</b> <small>www.busey.com</small> 70-256711	<b>095170</b> <small>95170</small>
---	---	---	---	---------------------------------------

SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS \*\*\*\*\*

	DATE	AMOUNT
	06/03/11	\$625.00

PAY TO THE ORDER OF **JAMIE ELLIS**

VOID IF NOT CASHED WITHIN 90 DAYS

  
 AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑈095170⑈ ⑆071102568⑆ 00191254⑆

BACK



DO NOT WRITE, STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE  
RESERVED FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION USE

ENDORSE HERE  
X 

52266128 66112811 >271176899< University



**Invoice**

**Presentation:** Making Good Choices Workshop- Keeping a Nature Sketch Journal

**Presenter:** Carie Nixon

**Date of presentation:** June 9, 2011

**Amount:** \$375

**Make check out to:** University of Illinois

**In memo please write:** Gift

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey Clementz, Education Program Specialist

5/26/11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date




Check Image

Item Reference: 95180

Amount: \$375.00

FRONT

THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED ON CHEMICAL REACTIVE PAPER WHICH CONTAINS A WATERMARK, ULTRAVIOLET FIBERS AND MICROPRINTING.

 <p><b>FOREST PRESERVES</b> CHAMPAIGN COUNTY</p>	<p><b>CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT</b> P.O. BOX #1040 MAHOMET, ILLINOIS 61853 PH. (217) 586-2511</p>	<p>BuseyBANK www.busey.com 70-250711</p>	<p><b>095180</b> 95180</p>
---	---	--	--------------------------------

THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS .....

	DATE	AMOUNT
	06/03/11	\$375.00

PAY TO THE ORDER OF **CARIE NIXON**

VOID IF NOT CASHED WITHIN 90 DAYS

*John W. Baker*  
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑈095180⑈ ⑆071102568⑆ 00191254⑈

BACK

The amount indicated on this check is subject to change without notice. This check is not valid for cashing or deposit until the amount is confirmed by the issuing institution. For more information, please contact your local branch or the issuing institution.

2011-06-15 BUSEY 140

**BOFD >071102568<**  
Busey Savoy  
2011-06-15  
038535376

ENDORSE HERE

*John W. Baker*

DO NOT WRITE STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE  
RESERVED FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION USE.



**Invoice**


**Presentation:** Making Good Choices Workshop- Tracking Down Resources

**Presenter:** Marianne Whitacre

**Date of presentation:** June 9, 2011

**Amount:** \$125

**Make check out to:** Marianne Whitacre

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey Clementz, Education Program Specialist

5/26/11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date


Check Image

Item Reference: 95190


Amount: \$125.00

FRONT

THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED ON CHEMICAL REACTIVE PAPER WHICH CONTAINS A WATERMARK, ULTRAVIOLET FIBERS AND MICROPRINT

 <p><b>FOREST PRESERVES</b> CHAMPAIGN COUNTY</p>	<p><b>CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT</b> P.O. BOX #1040 MAHOMET, ILLINOIS 61853 PH. (217) 686-2511</p>	<p><b>BuseyBANK</b> www.busey.com 70-256711</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: large;"><b>095190</b> 95190</p>				
<p>ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS</p>		<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">DATE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">AMOUNT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">06/03/11</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$125.00</td> </tr> </table>	DATE	AMOUNT	06/03/11	\$125.00
DATE	AMOUNT					
06/03/11	\$125.00					
<p>PAY TO THE ORDER OF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MARIANNE WHITACRE</p>	<p>VOID IF NOT CASHED WITHIN 90 DAYS</p> <p><i>John H. Baker</i> _____ AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE</p>					
<p>#095190# #071102568# 00191256#</p>						

BACK

 <p style="font-size: small;">Security Features: This document is printed on chemical reactive paper which contains a watermark, ultraviolet fibers and microprint. For more information, visit www.busey.com.</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Busey Bank: 062403750071 907690026799</p>	<p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">SIGNATURE HERE</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: large;"><i>Marianne Whitacre</i></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">DO NOT WRITE STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE FOR SECURITY, ALL CHECKS MUST BE SIGNED ON THE LINE</p>
--	--	--



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FY11 WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM

PAYMENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION

**Grantee Information**

Grantee Name: Champaign County Forest Preserve District  
P.O. Box 1040, 109 South Lake of the Woods Road  
Mahomet, IL 61853-1040

Grant Agreement #: 11-005W

Amount of  
Reimbursement Requested: \$ 2,000.00

I certify that the goods or services specified on this request for payment were for the use of this agency and that the expenditure for such goods or services was authorized and lawfully incurred, that such goods or services meet all the required standards set forth in the grant agreement to which this request for payment relates, and that the amount shown below on this request is correct and approved for payment.

By: Mary Ellen Wuellner Date: 2/10/12  
(Signature)

Name: Mary Ellen Wuellner Title: Grants Coordinator

Grantee F.E.I.N. / TIN: 37-1111088

Attach copies of vendor billings, proof of payment, and other necessary documentation and send the Request for Payment Certification to:

Roger Jansen  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
1660 W. Polk Avenue  
Charleston, IL 61920

Telephone #: (217)345-2420  
E-Mail Address: Roger.Jansen@Illinois.gov

**For DNR Use Only**

Approved  
for Payment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_